

Remarks

The Office action of 11/23/2005 suggests that Claim 1 of Group I might be the most generic of the apparatus claims. Applicants respectfully submit that apparatus Claim 20 may be more generic than Claim 1 since Claim 20 does not include a recitation of pocket means as appears in paragraph (b) of Claim 1. Claim 20 is generic relative to the elected subspecies of Fig. 4A because Fig. 4A shows an example of an interface (e.g., interface item 457a).

With regard to the interface means, note that method Claim 29 recites a user interface and the situating of the major portion of the robot mass between the interface and the container. It should be apparent from this that similar prior art searches will probably have to be conducted for both the apparatus claims of elected Group I and the related method of Claim 29 without imposing "serious burden on the examiner" (quoting MPEP §803(B)). MPEP §803 is cognizant of the burdens placed on Applicant as well as those placed on the examiner for deciding when restriction is proper. MPEP §803 (Restriction - When Proper) states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. [emphasis added]

In view of the above noted common theme of Claims 20 and 29 where the majority of the robot mass is positioned between the container and the interface, it is respectfully requested that these claims should not be broken apart and they should be expediently examined in unison.

Request for Change of Restriction

In view of the above it is requested that at least the restriction lines drawn between Groups I and Claim 29 be rescinded. A telephone call to the below attorney is requested if it will help expedite processing of the application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2257 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time and/or fee for additional claims, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 21, 2005.

 12/20/2005

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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